GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COAL
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:328
ANSWERED ON:14.03.2012
FIRE IN COALFIELDS
Namdhari Shri Inder Singh

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether incidents of fire in various coalfields/coal mines have been reported;

(b) if so, the details thereof during each of the last three years and the current year so far, coal mine-wise and State-wise;

(c) the period, since when fire has been raging in each such mine;

(d) whether the Government has assessed the loss of life, property and coal as a result thereof;

(e) if so, the details thereof, coal mine-wise and State-wise along with the number of coal mines that have been closed or proposed to be closed as a result thereof; and

(f) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to compensate, relocate and rehabilitate the affected people and also to check such incidents of fire in future?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL(SHRI PRATIK PRAKASHBAPU PATIL)

(a) to (e): Yes, Sir. 31 incidents of fire have been reported from various coalfields/coal mines of Coal India Ltd. in the last three years and in the current years. As per the information obtained from the office Directorate General of Mines Safety under Ministry of Labour and Employment, the details indicating the period, loss of life etc. are furnished at Annexure. Loss of life has been reported due to fire leading to explosion in case of Anjan Hill Colliery of South Eastern Coalfields Ltd. where 14 people were killed. Closure of mines has been reported in case of three mines including Anjan Hill Colliery. While the closure of Anjan Hill Colliery is continuing the other two mines have been reopened as indicated in the annexure. However, no loss of property has been reported in any of these cases.

(f) : The various steps being taken to check such incidents of fire are as follows:

The seam is worked with panel system having independent ventilation system.

Construction of sectionalisation stoppings

A panel is isolated as soon as it has been goaved out

Pressure Quality Survey is conducted for improving the quality of Ventilation.

Regular supervision/inspection

Continuous monitoring of the atmosphere inside the sealed off area as well as working environment is being done with the help of adequate instruments Tale-monitoring system is installed in some of high gassy and fiery underground mines for continuous monitoring of mine environment

Stone dusting

No voids are allowed beyond permissible limits in depillaring with sand stowing districts

Emergency Organisation Plan for dealing with fire exists in every mine as per statute

The rescue station /room etc have been fully equipped with round the clock emergency services available for all mines

Coal face is properly dressed

Proper water spraying is provided at coalfaces, which are susceptible to spontaneous heating

In the mines where stowing with sand is a practice, special care is taken to ensure that stowing of sand is in proper order

The surface area over the underground mines is also watched for any cracks or subsidence and cracks are filled with overburden material to curtail breathing of air into the mined out areas and thus preventing fire incidents.

In the built up area the workings are limited to avoid any subsidence. If due to any reason any danger is noticed for the structures or heavy tracks, the compensation as well as rehabilitation is arranged by the mine management as per the approved RR policy of the company.

The details of the compensation package in case of mine accidents is given at Annexure-II.